

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application respectfully requested in view of the amendments, remarks and enclosures herewith, which place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-45 are pending in the present application. A response to the restriction/election of species requirement mailed on 12 September 2007 is being filed concurrently with this preliminary amendment. The amendments to claims 2, 4, 29 and 44 were made to correct minor errors which were discovered upon review of the claims as published in in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005-0137244. No new matter has been added.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Early and favorable consideration of the application on the merits, and early Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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